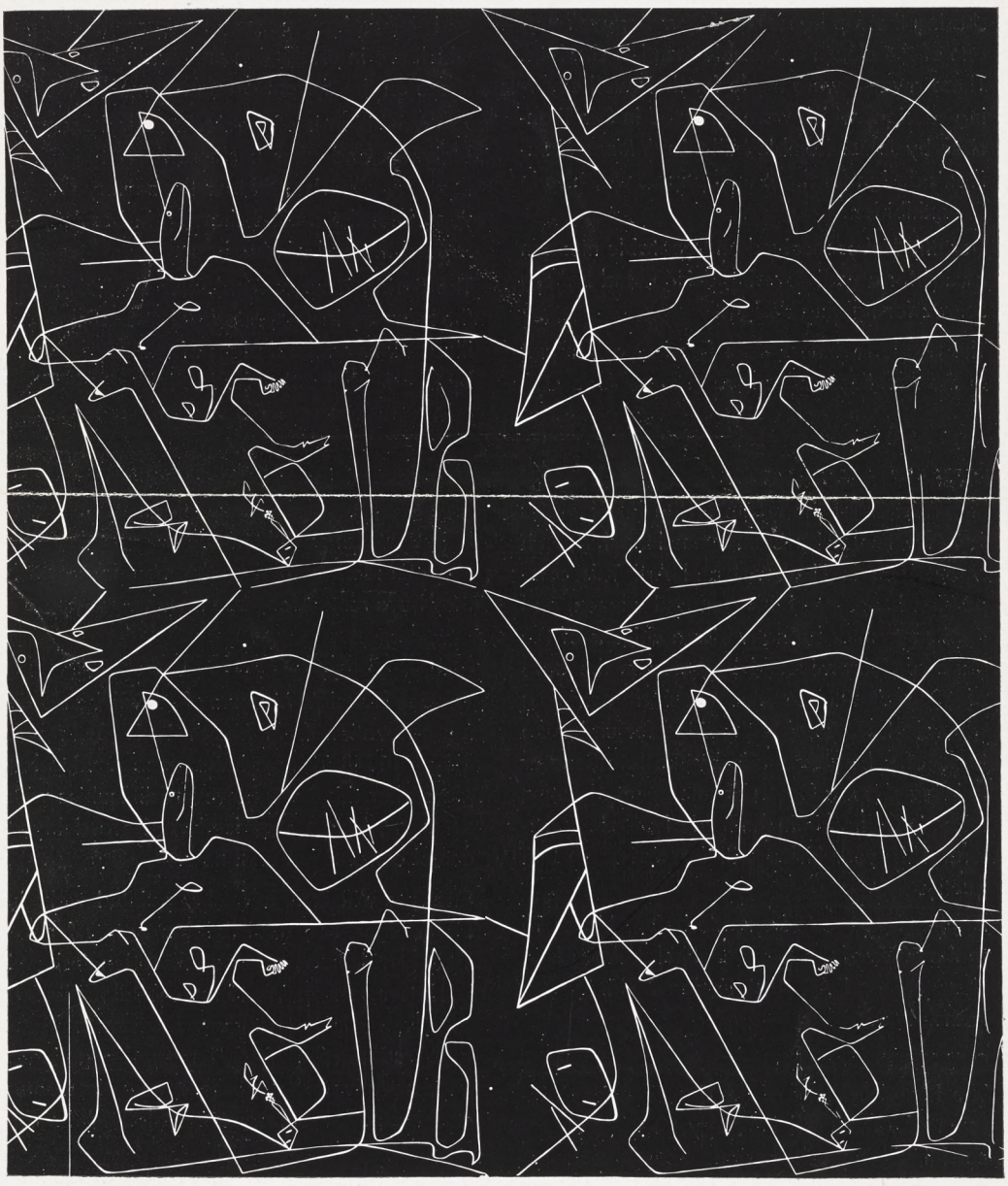
27

sfaa

SAN FRANCISCO ART ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

MARCH 1948 · VOL. 14 · NO. 3



CLAIRE FALKENSTEIN: *Vertebrate Mass.* Wallpaper design done for James Kemball Mills which won the first award in the American Institute of Decorators Competition

A. I. D. HONORS CALIFORNIANS

The American Institute of Decorators announced the awards in the annual competition of the American Institute of Decorators held in New York in February at the Architectural League's Gallery. These awards are given for fabrics, furniture, lighting and wall coverings used in the home-furnishing field during 1947. There were six winners of the first award and eleven who received the honorable mention citations.

Claire Falkenstein was one of the six designers sharing the top honors and *Dorr Bothwell* was one of the eleven honorable mention citations. These awards were made for their wall covering designs which were screened in San Francisco by James Kemble Mills. *Leah Rinne Hamilton's* design for these wall papers was also in the exhibition.

Dorothy Liebes received an honorable mention award for a wall covering design, and *Zahara Schatz* for lighting designs.

The citation winners were feted at a banquet at the Architectural League of New York.

This competition is open to interior designers of all nations, and members of the jury represent the education, museum, architectural and retailing fields in which they have distinguished themselves.

The object of the annual awards is to make known to the consumer public what the market offers in good design; and to commend those who create designs in fields related to interior design and decoration.

The entries selected by the jury for citations and exhibitions purposes represent designs which are in production and available for purchase on the current consumer market.

The exhibition is at the Architectural League's Galleries and after it closes there the thirty-five design entries will tour the country for one year, with the second showing in Los Angeles toward the end of March.

The Spring issue of *Mademoiselle Living* and the February issue of *Interiors* have articles and illustrations on the designs of wallpapers done by Bay Region artists for Mr. Mills.

PHELAN AWARDS

The Trustees of the Estate of the late Senator James D. Phelan have announced the thirteenth competition in Literature and Art. This competition is open to both men and women, and applicants must be native born citizens of the State of California and be between the ages of 20 and 40. The award, which carries a stipend of $1,000, was provided for under the terms of a bequest made by the late Senator to bring about a further development of native talent in California in the field of art and literature. This year there will be one award in poetry.

Applications are to be made before March 15 to the office of the James D. Phelan Awards in Literature and Art, 820 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2.

GALLERY SUCCESS

The Rental Gallery of the San Francisco Museum of Art closed February 23 after a successful three-week period. Sixty-two artists were represented by one hundred and sixty-eight paintings. Eighty-nine of these paintings were rented by fifty-nine museum members. Two sales were made and there is the possibility that more will be made as several renters are considering buying the paintings which they have rented for three months.

MUSEUM RENOVATION

The San Francisco Museum of Art will be closed for renovation from March 1, 1948 through May 15, 1948. This work was announced to begin earlier this year; however, difficulties with contracts, bids and procedures have delayed actual construction until now.

Changes will include freshly painted walls in all galleries, a special lighting system for the inner corridors, an enlarged reception desk and bookstore, conversion of the central exhibition court into a large lecture and concert hall, reconstruction of one of the smaller galleries for decorative art exhibitions, new classrooms and curatorial offices, and enlarged library facilities.

A regular schedule of exhibitions and activities will resume on May 15.

POTTERS EXHIBIT

The Second Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Potters Association was held at the De Young Museum in February. *F. Carlton Ball, Mary Erckenbrack, Rex Mason,* president-elect of the Association, and *Frank Smith* were the San Francisco Art Association members exhibiting. The showing was representative of California's art and studio potters.

The aim of the Potters Association is "to bring together potters and ceramists in the area—workers of different experience and background—in an association for their mutual strength and advantage. As members we shall seek to improve our own taste and extend our own appreciation and understanding of ceramic art at the same time that we are striving for a wider public appreciation of good ceramic work and a higher level of public taste."

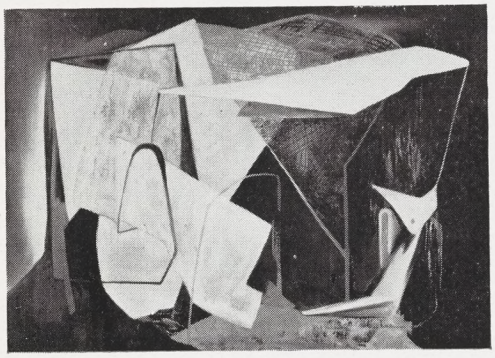
The exhibition's installation was arranged and designed by *Rex Mason,* student at the California School of Fine Arts, with the assistance and cooperation of *Dr. Walter Heil,* Director of the De Young Museum, and *Dr. Elizabeth Moses,* Curator of Decorative Arts, De Young Museum.

NOTED VISITOR

The famed photographer *Edward Steichen* visited the California School of Fine Arts late in January. Douglas MacAgy, Director, showed him around and Mr. Steichen seemed pleased with his visit. Besides being one of the nation's top photographers, he is the director of the Department of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art.

OAKLAND EXHIBIT

The Oakland Art Gallery's Annual Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Sculpture opened February 29. The exhibition has one hundred and fifty paintings, which were selected from six hundred entries, and there are thirty-six pieces of sculpture. The exhibition is representative of all schools and trends.





Gallery of the San Francisco Potters Association, De Young Museum.

Three juries judged all the paintings submitted. The conservative jury was composed of Peter Blos, John Garth and E. Spencer Macky; the intermediate jury was Alice Abeel, Florence Reinhold Earnist and Jane Fay Holden; and Edward Hagedorn, Alexander Nepote and Hamilton Wolf were on the radical jury. Brents Carlton, Ida Day Degan and Claire Falkenstein represented the three viewpoints on the sculpture jury.

RUTH ARMER

There will be an exhibition of abstractions in oil by *Ruth Armer* at the Rotunda Gallery at the City of Paris in April. Miss Armer is on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Art Association and is a member of the Women Artists. She has taught at the California School of Fine Arts. Her work has been shown at one-man shows in San Francisco, New York, Hollywood and Cincinnati and in group shows all over the United States and in Honolulu. She has won many prizes, most recently the Women Artists' President's Purchase Prize for the painting *Suspended* in the Women Artists' Annual.

Many of her paintings have been acquired by private collectors in this area and in other parts of the United States.

Pictured here is *Ascending Day,* one of the oils which will be in the exhibition.

INTERNATIONAL DESIGNER'S WORK EXHIBITED

The work of Hugo Steiner-Prag, one of this century's most outstanding designers, will be shown simultaneously in two San Francisco exhibitions during March. On March 13, under the sponsorship of the Society of Graphic Arts, a local organization founded a year ago, the California School of Fine Arts will open an exhibit of Steiner-Prag's work in the field of typography, while on March 10 a group of his paintings will go on view at the De Young Museum.

A Czech by birth, Hugo Steiner-Prag attained success throughout Europe as book illustrator, book designer, painter, educator and designer for the theatre. After Hitler's conquest of most of the continent capitals, he came to the United States as professor of graphic arts at New York University. He remained in this country until his death two years ago. Examples of his accomplishments, in both Europe and America, are included in the Art School exhibit.

Steiner-Prag attended the Prague Academy of Art, later studying painting in Munich with Franz von Stuck. His first success was a series of illustrations for a book of poetry by E. T. A. Hoffmann, which resulted in his being called upon to establish a bookmaking and commercial art department at the School for Arts and Crafts in Barmen. From then on Steiner-Prag's activities expanded rapidly; he was professor at Leipzig, in one of the most famous art schools of Europe; with the help of the Czech Government he founded a school for the study of book illustration, design and advertising art and there organized the International Collection of Modern Book Art; he also headed a leading art school in Stockholm for two years. During his lifetime he educated several generations of young artists, attracting students from all over the world.

Steiner-Prag illustrated over seventy and designed more than six hundred books, modeled the style of several publishing houses by supervising the whole output of their books, designed scores of marks and devices for printers and publishers—bookplates, packaging, decorative papers and posters—and did the complete layout of several well-known newspapers.

He belongs to the handful of European book artists whose initiative created a new development in the field of book illustration and fine printing and whose influence spread throughout the world and is strongly felt in bookmaking today.

Steiner-Prag's ability and versatility have been recognized and honored by governments, colleagues and students.

The exhibition of his work in the typographic field at the California School of Fine Arts will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday mornings.

NEWS ON ANNUALS

Two San Francisco Art Association Annuals have been announced. The Drawing and Print Annual will be held from June 9 through July 5 and the Watercolor, Pastel and Tempera Annual will be from September 9 through October 4. Further details published later.

The Artists' Council has announced a change in the procedure of the juries for the annuals. Starting with the Drawing and Print Exhibition there will be separate juries for selection and awards. Previously the three jurors receiving the highest number of votes automatically became the jury of awards and served for both selection and awards. Under the new plan there will be separate juries which will be achieved by the members voting for eight jurors. The three receiving the highest vote will constitute the jury of awards and the next five will become the jury of selection. No juror will serve in both.

ROSENBERG ANNOUNCED

The Abraham Rosenberg Fellowship for 1948 has been announced. It is open to those who have attended the California School of Fine Arts for at least two semesters. Applications must be received by April 12 and work by April 20. Further information can be obtained from Miss Nealie Sullivan, 800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco. (Or. 3-2640.)

COUNCIL ELECTION

The Artists' Council met on February 19 and re-elected *David Park* chairman. *Juliette Steele* was elected secretary and *Byron Randall* treasurer though in recent years the Council has not filled these two positions.

WHERE ARE MEMBERS EXHIBITING?

CITY OF PARIS *Art in Action*
Pictures of the Month by Florence Swift — through March

Rotunda Gallery
Paintings by Karl Baumann — through March 27

DE YOUNG MUSEUM
Third Annual Faculty Show California School of Fine Arts — through March 7

GUMP GALLERIES
Pictures by Ralph Stackpole — through March 13

OAKLAND ART GALLERY
Annual Exhibition of Oil Painting and Sculpture — through March 28

RAYMOND AND RAYMOND
Aquatints by Augusta Rathbone — March 1-13

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Reproduced in the January issue of *Arts and Architecture* are ceramics in the Mills College Collection. Included were works by *Rex Mason,* student at the California School of Fine Arts and San Francisco Art Association member, and *F. Carlton Ball,* Association member.

William A. Campbell, artist member of the Association, has returned recently from a nine months painting trip in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico, and has rejoined the faculty of the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. *Melvin Schuler,* associate artist member, also spent some time painting recently in Ajijic. Mr. Schuler is an instructor at the Humboldt State College, Arcata, California.

Columbia Shop by *Alexander Nepote* was in the California Water Color Society's exhibition held at the Grand Central Galleries in New York in January.

Dorr Bothwell, faculty member of the California School of Fine Arts, and artist member, San Francisco Art Association, is holding an exhibition of gouaches during March at the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento. She is speaking on the subject: "Color Pays Its Way" at that gallery on March 17.

WHITNEY MUSEUM ANNUAL

In February the Whitney Museum, New York, opened its Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture, Water Colors and Drawings. This show differs from most annuals in that it is primarily a sculpture exhibition.

Many Californians were represented in this annual. In sculpture there was *Eyrie* by *Robert Howard, Hermit* by *Adaline Kent* and *Embrace* by former San Franciscan *Helen Phillips. Raymond Puccinelli* was invited to exhibit his marble, *Iris.* There were water colors by *Erle Loran* and *Dong Kingman.*

The exhibition ends March 21.

ART COMMISSION CHANGES

Since Mayor Robinson took office there have been several changes made in the Art Commission. San Francisco Art Association member *Antonio Sotomayor* was appointed to the Commission and *Harold Zellerbach,* lay member, was appointed president. Last month the mayor named *Ralph Stackpole* to the Commission.

Mr. Sotomayor is an instructor at the California School of Fine Arts and a nationally known oil painter, caricaturist, water-colorist and muralist. His work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the Bay Area and in Argentina, Chicago, Washington, D. C., San Diego and La Jolla. He is known also as an art contributor to the Chronicle, and for the story, costumes and decor of a ballet given recently by the San Francisco Civic Ballet.

There are still two vacancies to be filled on the ten-man Commission.

The *Bulletin* is published monthly by the San Francisco Art Association — *Editor,* ISABEL WIEL
Please address all communications and material for publication to the editor at 3511 Clay Street, San Francisco

800 CHESTNUT · SAN FRANCISCO 11 · CALIFORNIA

sfaa BULLETIN

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Francisco, Calif.
Permit No. 1783